



The long-term forecasts we referenced last April, which predicted the river would remain above eight feet for most of the forecast period (April to July), did not materialize. The river level was lower than expected, which was good news for us. Even with the low level of water, some flooded areas have requested aerial helicopter treatments covering approximately 580 acres.

Below please find a general report on our different departments/activities during the months of April and May 2026.

- **Administration:**

- **County**

- Nothing to report.

- **Clark County Public Health (CCPH)**

- Nothing to report

- **County Treasurer**

- Nothing to report.

- **TDJ CPA**

- Nothing to report.

- **Operations**

- For the FAA requirements needed to fly the helicopter for larvicide treatments, I contacted a local TV station in Portland (KOIN 6) and managed to secure advertising spots on TV and radio (streaming). We had 24 spots on each medium for over four days. We also posted the script on three social media platforms and on our website. This only needed to be done once during the summer, regardless of the number of aerial treatments conducted during mosquito season.
- Our Congested Area Plan (CAP), which is required to operate an aircraft for aerial adulticide treatments, has also been renewed by VDCI, our contractor that would perform spraying if necessary. The annual contract with VDCI has also been renewed.
- We participated in the Home and Gardens Idea Fair in Vancouver from April 25th-26th. This was a great opportunity for our staff to connect with the community and inform them of our abatement services.
- We have hired an additional seasonal employee for operations (catch basin treatments) and one student for our summer project collecting larvae from the hybrid population of *Culex pipiens*. We now have a total of 17 employees for the season.
- All our seasonal workers are now certified to use pesticides and have already started working in the field. We are already off to a great start with nearly 2,000 head boxes (boxes

that filter and remove sediments from water during rain) that have been treated, and we have also begun treating the catch basins.

- We have treated approximately 580 acres of wetlands and flooded areas located north, west, and south of Vancouver Lake on May 14th. With warmer days approaching in June, the water will recede or seep further in these areas, and we hope we won't have to use the helicopter again this year.
- Some areas around Vancouver Lake are “open” spaces (without trees or power lines) and are smaller in size, so they can be serviced with our drone during the summer.

- **Lab**

- We have started to test mosquito samples (also called “mosquito pools”) with our PCR machine. Madeline is doing a great job of getting used to this new technology. So far, we have not found any positive pools for West Nile virus.
- We asked the Washington State Department of Health laboratory if they could send us proficiency samples. Proficiency samples are essential tools to evaluate and ensure the accuracy and consistency of testing methods. Some of the samples we received were intentionally designed to be positive for West Nile virus. Since we had never had positive samples before, we wanted to verify whether our PCR could detect positive samples. We passed the test with flying colors by identifying correctly all the positive samples containing West Nile virus.
- Anya, our second lab technician, is also making great progress learning all the different routes for setting up traps and learning mosquito identification (larvae and adults).
- We already have four routes set up and we are collecting mosquitoes in more than 40 sites in Clark County.
- We captured in our traps a mosquito species, *Aedes aloponotum*, that has not previously been recorded in Clark County. Although this species is primarily found in the Pacific Northwest of the United States and breeds along grassy edges of shallow lakes, it had never been caught in our traps before. The Washington State Department of Health has identified and confirmed this new species for our county.